

#15B
5/28/03

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1-8. (Withdrawn)

B1

9. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a ~~protein~~ polypeptide

having:

- (a) a molecular weight of about 55 kDa;
- (b) functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent;
and
- (c) an amino acid sequence comprising one or more of the following:
 - i) SEQ ID NO:1;
 - ii) SEQ ID NO:2;
 - iii) SEQ ID NO:3;
 - iv) SEQ ID NO:4;
 - v) SEQ ID NO:5.

or fragment as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

10. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 9 which comprises encoding a polypeptide with the function of a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent, selected from the group consisting of: or a variant thereof

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 or a functionally equivalent variant of the polypeptide;
- (b) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;
- (c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions with one of the polynucleotides mentioned under (a) or (b) or is complementary thereto; and
- (d) a polynucleotide whose nucleotide sequence deviates from the sequence of the polynucleotide mentioned under (a), (b) or (c) owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

11. (Withdrawn)

B2

12. (Currently amended) A vector comprising which includes a the polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 25~~one of claims 9 to 11.~~

Cont
B2

13. (Currently amended) A host cell which expresses a polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 25 ~~one of claims 9 to 11.~~

14-24. (Withdrawn)

B3 25. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is obtainable from the haemolymph of Perna canaliculus, has an apparent molecular weight of 75 kDa as determined by PAGE, and has functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent.
